

A1
Sub 1
communication means for communicating, to the third domain, the order for each component part expanded by said expanding means.

A2
Sub 2
5. ~~(Amended)~~ The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for performing expansion into each component part [has] includes:

means for performing expansion in units of individual parts for constructing a manufactured product based upon a received order[,]; and

means for calculating [the number of parts] an amount of parts.

6. (Amended) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for devising an ordering plan [has] includes:

means for comparing [a number] an amount of parts contained in inventory and [a number] an amount of parts required[,]; and

means for calculating minimum units of an order based upon results of the comparison.

A3
Sub 3
8. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said first, second and third domains are connected in a [nodeless] tree structure, and an order for each component part processed by said first domain is communicated to the third domain without processing being duplicated by the [expanding] expansion means of said second domain.

A4
Sub 4
11. (Amended) A parts ordering system having a database which stores [a number] an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, as well as a first domain, second

domain and third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

means for performing expansion, into each component part, based upon an order received from the first domain;

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded by said [expanding] means for performing expansion; and

stopping means for comparing the [number] amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required [number] amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed by said [expanding] means for performing expansion, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the [number] amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed [number] amount, than the required [number] amount of specific parts.

12. (Amended) A parts ordering system in which a first domain is internally provided with a database in which [a number] an amount of specific parts contained in inventory has been stored, wherein said first domain includes:

means for performing expansion, into each component part, based upon an order received from the second domain;

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded by said [expanding] means for performing expansion; and

stopping means for comparing the [number] amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database within the first domain and a required [number] amount of

specific parts obtained by expansion performed by said [expanding] means for performing expansion, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the [number] amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed [number] amount, than the required [number] amount of specific parts,

wherein each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line.

13. (Amended) A parts ordering system having a first domain and a second domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

[expanding] expansion means for [performing expansion] expanding, into each component part, based upon an order received from the first domain; and

first control means which controls reference permission for referring, from an operating terminal connected to said second domain, to status of order receiving/issuance in individual parts units expanded by said [expanding] expansion means.

14. (Amended) The system according to claim 13, wherein said first control means permits reference to order data, machining plan data and sub-part inventory data of said first domain [upon limiting this] and limits reference to data [to that] required by said second domain.

16. (Amended) A parts ordering system having a first domain and a second domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

[expanding] expansion means for expanding, into component parts, an order that has been received from the first domain;

first control means which controls permission to refer to an order for a component part expanded by said [expanding] expansion means, reference being made from an operating terminal connected to the second domain, and second control means for controlling permission to refer to ordering information, within the first domain, related to an order issued to the second domain.

21. (Amended) A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, deliver and receive orders, comprising:

an [expanding] expansion step at which the second domain expands, into [its] component parts, an order that has been received from the first domain; and

a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, an order for each component part expanded at the [expanded] expansion step.

22. (Amended) A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure deliver and receive orders via a database

which stores [a number] an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, the method comprising:

an [expanding] expansion step at which the second domain [performs expansion] expands, into each component part, [based upon] an order received from the first domain;

a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded at the [expanding] expansion step; and

a stopping step at which the second domain compares the [number] amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required [number] amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed at the [expanding] expansion step, and stops the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the [number] amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed [number] amount, than the required [number] amount of specific parts.

24. (Amended) A parts management system having a database which stores [a number] an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, as well as a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

means for performing expansion, into each component part, [based upon] an order received from the first domain; and

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded by said [expanding] means for performing expansion;